

his authority the necessity of establishing a hospital for the reception of cases of infectious diseases. Phthisis causes 17 deaths, heart disease 24, and diseases of the chest 46. Mr. Allen has little to report in the matter of sanitary improvement; but he thinks there is much to encourage himself and the officials in their uphill work. In a portion of the district by-laws are in force, and there is some promise of an extended water-supply.

BOLTON.—Mr. Sargeant's report consists largely of a series of elaborate statistical tables; but he has not neglected to give in the body of his report sufficiently ample information as to the sanitary condition of the borough. The present report is for the fifteen months ended December 31st, 1880, with the view of making future reports uniform in point of date with those of medical officers of health generally. During the period reported on, there were 4,644 births and 2,835 deaths in the borough, giving a natural increase to the population of 1,809. The population at the middle of 1880 was estimated to be 106,700, or 109 less than the natural increase, and considerably below that which would be arrived at according to the rule laid down by the Registrar-General. This is accounted for by the late depression in trade, which caused the population to fluctuate largely. The mortality was at the rate of 20.58 per 1,000, being the lowest rate of mortality ever reported for Bolton. It was 0.62 per 1,000 lower than 1879, and nearly 5 per 1,000 below the average for the preceding ten years—equivalent, in fact, to an annual saving of more than 500 lives. Of the total deaths, 692 were due to zymotic diseases—equal to 24.4 per cent. of the entire mortality, and 4.5 per 1,005 of the population. As compared with 1879, the zymotic death-rate was more than doubled, and showed an average higher than that recorded for the preceding ten years. This mortality is readily accounted for by the fatal prevalence of measles, scarlet fever, and diarrhoea; the latter malady alone causing 245 deaths, whilst measles terminated fatally in 216 cases, and scarlet fever in 112. Small-pox was also more or less prevalent in Bolton, though only one death was registered from this cause. Great value is attached by the health-officer to the system in force requiring the compulsory notification of infectious diseases, which, he states, "has given every satisfaction, and has proved of immense value in limiting the spread of contagion." During the year no less than 1,646 cases were reported. The sanitary work of the borough was carefully carried out, and many minor improvements are noted. The slaughter-houses appear to have been satisfactorily conducted; but many of them are objectionable on account of their overcrowded situation; and the Town Council would do well to seriously consider Mr. Sargeant's recommendation for the provision of a public *abattoir*.

BOARDING OUT OF PAUPER CHILDREN.

SIR,—Could you or some member kindly put me right in the following case? I am parish surgeon, and am told that I am not entitled to the fee of 2s. 6d. for visiting and filling up the form for each out-boarding pauper child for the first time, that is, for the first quarter, but only for the subsequent visits, and am paid accordingly. Ought I not to be paid for my first visit and for filling up the form?—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

PARISH MEDICAL OFFICER.

. We are very sorry for our correspondent; but, unfortunately, the wording of the order is against him, for there it is implied that it is the duty of the medical officer to make the visit and fill up the form. This is another illustration of the ill results that spring from the absence of unity in the medical body politic. Neither the church nor the law would allow any order to be issued, or Bill to be introduced, saddling them with fresh obligations without additional payment. Our correspondent and his brethren have only themselves to thank for the melancholy plight in which they frequently find themselves. Why do they not recall the lesson taught in their youth, that "Union is strength?"

T. H. T.—The Public Health Act and the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act may, in common with all other Acts of Parliament, be obtained of the Queen's Printers, Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street; or through any bookseller. There are several annotated editions of the Acts in question, such as Lumley's, Glen's, Chambers's, and Fitzgerald's. The cheapest is a handy little book which is, we believe, published by Messrs. Knight and Co. for three shillings and sixpence.

SIR,—I wish to ask if I should be justified in applying for the appointment of medical officer of a district under the following circumstances. My predecessor, being an L.S.A. only, never held the appointment, although he practised here forty years. Neither the present medical officer or myself are resident in the district, and he holds it as an annual appointment. It is not advertised. Although I am not resident, I consider the district mine, as I reside three miles nearer, and my practice extends over the whole district.

Should I be acting according to "etiquette" if I made application, although it is not advertised?—I am, etc.,

H. A. H.

. We consider that our correspondent would, under the circumstances named in his letter, be quite justified in intimating to the board of guardians his readiness to take the office, if the board decide on offering it to him. Under existing orders of the Central Department, boards of guardians are bound to submit every non-resident medical officer's appointment to annual re-election. Their neglect to advertise the vacancy accruing at a certain date could not bar a qualified outsider from applying for it.

OBITUARY.

JOHN FLINT SOUTH, F.R.C.S.

THE senior members of our profession, especially those educated at the formerly united hospitals of Guy's and St. Thomas's, will be sorry to hear that this well known, and with many, most popular man, expired at his residence in Blackheath Park, on Sunday last the 8th instant, in his 85th year.

Mr. South was a son of a well known and highly respectable apothecary in an extensive and lucrative practice in Lant Street, Borough, who gave him, in common with all his children, a first rate classical education. The eccentric Sir James South, the well known astronomer royal who forsook medicine, as the subject of this notice said, for "stargazing," and built the well-known observatory in his grounds at Kensington, was an elder brother. On the completion of his preliminary education he was apprenticed to Mr. Henry Cline, junr., surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, on February 18th, 1814, who received with him the large premium of £500 to board and lodge out of the house, resident pupils at that time paying £1000; but in "those good old days when George the Third was king," this meant in most cases, as in his, an appointment on the staff of the ancient hospital at the proper time. On the completion of his professional education, he underwent the usual examination and was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons on August 6th, 1819; and when the charter was granted to that institution, he was of course elected one of the honorary fellows December 11th, 1843. After a long visit to Germany, he settled down to practice, and whilst waiting for patients amused himself in literary pursuits, translating Otto's *Compendium of Human and Comparative Anatomy*, with notes and references—a text-book well known to students. He also wrote a *Short Description of the Bones*. His principal work was, however, a translation of Chelius' *System of Surgery*, with copious and most valuable notes. For many years, he held the office of surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, where he also lectured on surgery. Mr. South was elected a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1841, with his senior colleague Mr. J. M. Arnott, who still survives. In 1844 he delivered the Hunterian Oration, the following year he was appointed Arris and Gale professor of human anatomy and surgery. In 1849, he was elected, with Mr. C. H. Hawkins, a member of the court of examiners, and as such, kept a record of every candidate he examined, where educated and the result, a work of great labour, with little or no good. In 1851, he obtained the highest collegiate honour, that of president, and again in 1860. Mr. South was twice married. By his first wife he leaves a son and daughter, and by the lady who survives him two daughters. He was a member of many learned societies abroad, and in constant correspondence with scientific men in Germany, France, and Stockholm, many of whom, at the recent International Medical Congress, visited their venerable friend at his beautiful residence in Blackheath Park. The simple act of introducing our vegetable marrow obtained for him the large Linnæan medal, and the fellowship of the society.

To Mr. South is due the credit of causing the remains of John Hunter, discovered by the late Mr. F. P. Buckland in the vaults of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, to be removed to the most appropriate resting place in Westminster Abbey. The inscription on the tablet marking the spot was from his pen.

For some years past Mr. South had been engaged writing a history of the Royal College of Surgeons, which extended to such a length that it became a history of the profession. He had previously completed a history of St. Thomas's Hospital.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—The list of Officers and Council for the ensuing year adopted at the annual meeting, January 10th, 1882, is as follows. *President*: *T. Shadford Walker. *Vice-Presidents*: Robert Gee, Benjamin Townson, *Edgar A. Browne, *Henry G. Rawdon. *Hon. Treasurer*: W. Macfie Campbell. *Hon. Gen. Secretary*: Rushton Parker. *Hon. Sec. to Ordinary Meetings*: *Frank T. Paul. *Hon. Librarian*: J. M. Howie. *Council*: J. E. Burton, D. Dunlop Costine, J. N. Cregeen, J. Sibley Hicks, Arthur E. Hopper, *Alexander Dunbar, *James Lambert, *E. Mason Sheldon, *J. Kellett Smith, *Samuel Spratley, *John H. Wilson, *Arthur Wiglesworth. *Microscopical Committee*: W. Alexander, P. M. Braidwood, Henry Briggs, T. R. Glynn, Karl Grossmann, J. Sibley Hicks, John Newton, Rushton Parker, *William R. Parker, Frank T. Paul, *W. Whitford, William Williams. The asterisk (*) relates to newly elected members.